



# FOREST AREAS & FOREST CAMPGROUNDS

## STATE LAND RULES

### **Excerpt from REGULATIONS OF LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

*This excerpt contains rules relevant to State Lands, other than State Parks and Recreation Areas. For details on State Parks and Recreation Areas, review the complete regulations, Eff. October 18, 2001. By authority conferred on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.504.*

#### **DEFINITIONS** (History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)

##### **R299.921 Definitions - Rule 21. As used in these rules:**

(a) **"Camp"** means any of the following: (i) The erection of a tent. (ii) The opening or setting up of a tent-type camper, (iii) the parking and occupancy of a travel or house trailer. (iv) Sleeping in any type motor vehicle, sleeping bag, or sleeping in any other manner between the hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.

(b) "Commercial Operations" means any activity that involves, directly or indirectly, the buying or selling of goods or services, or the exchange or attempt or offer to exchange goods or services for money, barter, or for anything of value.

(c) "Day-use area" means a specific area of a state park or recreation area which is developed and maintained as an area to be used by the public for picnics, playground use, swimming, organized meetings, or social gatherings, and educational displays and exhibits and which has a 450 foot buffer zone around the area. "Day-use area" also includes all park and recreation area offices, out-buildings, garages, maintenance shops, museums, the 450-foot buffer zone around all such buildings, and any area of a state park or recreation area that the chief of the parks and recreation division designates as a "day-use area", either on a temporary or permanent basis, by posting the boundaries of that area as a "day-use area".

(d) **"Designated"** means listed in a director's order posted with a sign or signs at the site, or reasonably identified for a particular use.

(e) "Designated area" means an area that has been properly signed on the ground for cross-country ORV use.

(f) "Designated route" means forest roads that have been properly signed on the ground for ORV use.

(g) "Designated trail" means a 1-track path or way which is capable of travel by a 2- to 4-wheel vehicle that is less than 50 inches in width and which has been properly signed on the ground for ORV use.

(h) "Event" means a single, structured, organized, consolidated, scheduled meeting or occurrence which is on state-owned lands and to which one or both of the following apply: (i) a fee or donation is required for participation. (ii) The number of people involved is 20 or more individuals.

(i) "Forest road" means a hard surfaced road, a gravel or dirt road, or another route capable of being traveled by a 2-wheel drive 4-

wheeled conventional vehicle designated for highway use, but does not include an interstate, state, or county highway.

(j) "ORV" means a motor-driven off-road recreational vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. "ORV" includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: (i) A multitrack or multiwheel drive or low pressure tire vehicle. (ii) A motorcycle or related 2-wheel or 3-wheel vehicle. (iii) An amphibious machine. (iv) A ground effect air cushion vehicle. (v) Another means of transportation deriving motive power from a source other than muscle or wind. "ORV" does not include a registered snowmobile, a farm vehicle being used for farming, a vehicle used for military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement purposes, a construction or logging vehicle used in performance of its common function, or a registered aircraft.

(k) "Permit or proper written permission" means a written permit issued by the department.

(l) "Person" has the same meaning as defined in section 301 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.301.

(m) "Properly signed on the ground" means that signs have been posted by the department to mark the location or boundary of a designated trail, route, or area.

(n) "State forest officer" means a person commissioned by the director under section 83107 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.83107.

(o) "State park officer" means a person commissioned by the director under section 74124 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.72124.

#### **GENERAL RULES** (History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)

**R 299.922** - Unlawful acts generally. Rule 22 - On lands owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

(a) To enter, use, or occupy state-owned lands for any purpose when they are posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the department.

(b) To dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of state-owned lands in receptacles provided on state-owned lands.

(c) To set fire to the contents of a trash container.

(d) To place or burn garbage in a fire ring or stove, or bury refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage, regardless of its origin.

**NOTE:** It is your responsibility to ensure you are informed of all current rules and regulations relevant to you activities on public lands. The information presented here represents some details relevant to land use, but is not a complete list of all rules and regulations, and may not reflect recent changes in legislation and rules. This product is not a legal notice, nor a complete collection of regulations and laws. It is a condensed tool issued for convenience of our users. **Rules that impact camping activities appear in bold text.** Contact your local DNR office if you have questions, or to verify regulations relating to possible activities before engaging in those activities.

(e) To engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, or otherwise disorderly conduct, or to lounge, sit, or lie upon walks, roads, or paths obstructing the free passage of another person.

(f) To place or erect a fence or barrier, to construct or occupy improvements, or to enclose the lands.

(g) To move, remove, destroy, mutilate, or deface posters, notices, signs, or markers of the department of natural resources or any other agency of government.

(h) To destroy, damage, or remove trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, or other vegetation. Except in wildlife food plots, this subdivision does not apply to picking and removing mushrooms, berries and edible fruits or nuts for personal use.

(i) To peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter; post signs; paint or otherwise mark any tree or rock on any lands, waters, structures, or property; or use such areas for commercial operations.

(j) To possess a glass container within any land or water area that is designated as a bathing beach or a land or water area that is regularly used for sunbathing, swimming, or wading.

(k) To obstruct any road or trail in a manner that hinders public access to the lands.

(l) To park vehicles of any type in areas posted as no parking; or, where designated parking areas exist, to park vehicles of any type in an area other than the designated parking area. If a motor vehicle is found parked on state lands, then the license plate displayed on the motor vehicle shall constitute prima facie evidence that the owner of the vehicle is the person who parked it there.

(m) To hold events including, but not limited to, races, endurance contests, tournaments, or trail rides, unless the events are conducted pursuant to a permit. The permit may include a charge to the sponsor or permittee for the use of the land. An event may require a performance bond to ensure permit compliance and may require public liability insurance. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for events where the number of participants is 20 or more individuals if the department determines that the event will not require department oversight, and the event will have a minimal impact on the resource and on the use of the lands by others.

(n) To use a loudspeaker, public address system, or sound-amplifying equipment of any kind, except for an electronic game-

calling device that is lawfully used while hunting, or to operate a motor, motorboat, motor vehicle, radio, television, generator, or any other device in a manner that produces excessive noise.

(o) To use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle in the Upper Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, a designated area, or a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles or entry.

(p) To use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle in the Lower Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, or a designated area. A wheeled, motorized vehicle that is properly registered under 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 et seq. may be operated on a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles or entry.

**(q) To camp in a state park, recreation area, public access site, or designated campground on other than a designated site.**

**(r) To camp in any designated campground, access site, or location in a state forest or state game area for more than 15 consecutive nights in a calendar year. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1/2 mile from the previous camp.**

**(s) To leave a campsite unoccupied for more than a 24-hour period after the camp is established. A campsite is considered to be occupied if at least 1 member of the camping party is in attendance during the nighttime hours.**

(t) To store or leave a watercraft, fish shanty, or other property on state lands for more than 24 hours. This provision does not apply to lawfully occupied designated camping sites or to ground blinds and tree stands that meet legal requirements.

**(u) For more than 1 single family or more than 4 unrelated persons to camp on 1 designated campsite. For the purposes of this subdivision, a single family includes parents or guardians and their children. A single family may include other relatives if not more than 1 recreational vehicle, camping trailer, or pickup camper is used and if there are fewer than 9 individuals.**

(v) To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal-driven vehicle on any area, except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle-paths and campgrounds designated for such use by the department and on state forest lands not posted closed to such use or entry.

(w) To operate the motor or motors of a vessel at more than idle speed at any boat launch ramp administered by the department, unless the propeller is disengaged.

(x) To use such areas for commercial operations unless the commercial operations are conducted pursuant to a permit. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for commercial operations where the department determines that the commercial operation will not require department oversight and the commercial operation will have a minimal impact on the resource and the use of lands by others.

**PARKING AND MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE** *(History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)*

**R 299.924** State lands other than parks, recreation areas, game and wildlife areas, designated campgrounds and access sites; unlawful acts. Rule 24 - In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, on state lands owned or under the control of the department other than state parks, recreation areas, game and wildlife areas, designated campgrounds, and public access sites, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do either of the following:

(a) To park any wheeled, motorized vehicle more than 50 feet from the traveled portion of a road, forest road, parking lot, or trail open to such vehicle use.

(b) To use, operate, or possess a motorized vehicle on a designated state forest pathway.

**IN DESIGNATED CAMPGROUNDS** *(History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)*

**R 299.925 Designated campgrounds, unlawful acts.** Rule 25 - In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, in designated Department of Natural Resources-administered campgrounds, other than those in state parks, recreation areas, and access sites, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

**(a) To camp or place a camp of any type in a designated campground without first properly filling out the camp registration tag, which includes the payment of the posted camping fee, as directed on the camp registration tag. The camp registration tag is not considered properly filled out until the registration and fees are deposited in a receptacle as directed and the proper portion of the tag is posted at the campsite. The tag shall be furnished by the department and be available at the campground.**

(b) For an unregistered camper or campground visitor to enter or remain in a campground, day-use area, beach, or parking lot between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

(c) To discharge firearms, air guns, bow-and-arrow, crossbow, gas guns, spring loaded guns, or sling shots.

(d) To operate an ORV, snowmobile, or any motorized device, except for entrance to and departure from a designated campground.

(e) To allow, place, or drive more than 2 motor vehicles onto 1 campsite or into a campground except that 4 motorcycles are permitted if each is operated by a registered camper.

(f) To build fires, except in designated places or except in stoves or grills that are approved by an authorized representative of the department.

(g) To possess a dog or other animal, unless it is under immediate control on a leash that is not more than 6 feet in length.

**GAME AREAS; UNLAWFUL ACTS** *(History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)*

**R 299.926** - Rule 26. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, on state-owned lands in a state game area, it unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

(a) To camp between May 15 and September 10, except in areas specifically designated for camping.

(b) To park any wheeled, motorized vehicle more than 20 feet from the traveled portion of a road, forest road, parking lot, or trail open to wheeled, motorized vehicle. use.

(c) To operate any self-propelled motor or mechanically driven vehicle, including snowmobiles and bicycles, on other than a designated established road open to the public, a trail or area properly signed by the department as being open to such use, or a parking lot.

**VIOLATION OF RULES** *(History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)*

**R 299.929** - Violation of rules; revocation of permit or eviction. Rule 29 - In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, violation of any of these rules may result in the revocation of a camping permit or eviction from the state park, recreation area, access site, game area, or designated campground, or both.

R 299.930 - Persons exempt from the rules. Rule 30 - Department employees acting in the line of duty, and persons performing specific acts or conducting activity authorized by written permission are exempt from these rules.

**PENALTY**

**MCL 324.504 (Excerpt)** *(History: 1994, Act 541, Eff. March 30, 1995; - Am 1996, Act 171, Imd. Eff. April 18, 1996.)* A person who violates a rule. or an order...is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

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